

Retired doctor dies in fire at his home

By Gene Ayres
The Tribune

SEP 13 1987

HAYWARD — An elderly retired physician died yesterday at his home here, in a fire authorities believe was started by a cigarette.

The victim was Chang Soo Carl Kim, 80, a native of Korea.

He had lived alone in his home at 22834 Upland Way after his wife, Helen, opened a convalescent hospital in San Jose and moved there several years ago.

"He just didn't want to leave here," said a neighbor, Manetta Jensen, who had known the Kim family for years.

Jensen said Kim had practiced as an internist and been on the staff of Mt. Zion hospital before his retirement.

"He was a nice old guy," she said. "He's done some preaching. He told me so. He's very religious."

Jensen said Kim had been active in the Korean Sungji Presbyterian Church in Hayward.

Firefighters were called to the Kim home at 11:15 a.m. and quickly controlled the fire, which was confined to the victim's bedroom.

Fire Inspector Chuck Buratto said a burning cigarette apparently started the blaze.

Jensen said that Kim is survived by three children, Steve, Edward and Elise.